AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A ceramic material comprising:

a solid solution comprising:

a first ceramic material having a perovskite structure and defining a host lattice, the first ceramic material comprising lead, zirconium and titanium; and

a second ceramic material having a cryolite structure and comprising $A_4(B_{2-2x/3}Nb_{2+2x/3})O_{11+x}V_{1-x}$, where A comprises barium or strontium, where B comprises strontium, magnesium, or calcium, where V comprises an oxygen vacancy, and where $0 \leq x$ [[≤]] ≤ 1.

2. (Previously Presented) The ceramic material of claim 1, wherein the first ceramic material and the second ceramic material comprise a mixed crystal phase.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The ceramic material of claim 1, wherein the second ceramic material comprises

$$Sr_4(Sr_{2-2x/3}Nb_{2+2x/3})O_{11+x}V_{1-x},$$

where V comprises an oxygen vacancy, and where $0 \leq x$ [[≤]] ≤ 1.

5. (Currently Amended) The ceramic material of claim 1, wherein the second ceramic material comprises

$$Sr_4(Ca_{2-2x/3}Nb_{2+2x/3})O_{11+x}V_{1-x},$$

where V comprises an oxygen vacancy, and where: $0 \leq x$ [[≤]] ≤ 1.

6. (Currently Amended) The ceramic material of claim 1, wherein the second ceramic material comprises

$$Sr_4(Mg_{2-2x/3}Nb_{2+2x/3})O_{11+x}V_{1-x},$$

where V comprises an oxygen vacancy, and where $0 \leq x$ [[≤]] ≤ 1.

7. (Currently Amended) The ceramic material of claim 1, wherein the second ceramic material comprises

$$Ba_4(Sr_{2-2x/3}Nb_{2+2x/3})O_{11+x}V_{1-x},$$

where V comprises an oxygen vacancy, and where $0 \leq x$ [[≤]] ≤ 1.

8. (Currently Amended) The ceramic material of claim 1, wherein the second ceramic material comprises

$$Ba_4(Ca_{2-2x/3}Nb_{2+2x/3})O_{11+x}V_{1-x},$$

where V comprises an oxygen vacancy, and where $0 \leq x$ [[≤]] ≤ 1.

9. (Currently Amended) The ceramic material of claim 1, wherein the second ceramic material comprises

$$Ba_4(Mg_{2-2x/3}Nb_{2+2x/3})O_{11+x}V_{1-x},$$

where V comprises an oxygen vacancy, and where $0 \leq x$ [[≤]] ≤ 1.

10. (Previously Presented) The ceramic material of claim 1, wherein the first ceramic material comprises $Pb(Zr_aTi_{1-a})O_3$, where $0.5 \leq a \leq 0.6$.

11. (Previously Presented) The ceramic material of claim 1, wherein the first ceramic material comprises a mixed crystal phase, the first ceramic material comprising a PZT ceramic and an additional component having a perovskite lattice-type structure.

12. (Previously Presented) The ceramic material of claim 11, wherein the additional component comprises $KNbO_3$.

13. (Previously Presented) The ceramic material of claim 11, wherein the additional component comprises $Pb(M^{II}_{1/3}\ M^{V}_{2/3})O_3$, where M^{II} comprises Mg, Zn, Co, Ni, Mn, or Cu, and where M^{V} comprises Nb, Ta, or Sb.

14. (Previously Presented) The ceramic material of claim 11, wherein the additional component comprises $Pb(M^{II}_{1/2}\ M^{VI}_{1/2})O_3$, where M^{II} comprises Mg, Zn, Co, Ni, Mn, or Cu, and where M^{VI} comprises W.

15. (Previously Presented) The ceramic material of claim 11, wherein the additional component comprises $Pb(M^{III}_{1/2}\ M^{V}_{1/2})O_3$, where M^{III} comprises Fe, Mn, Cr, or Ga, and where M^{V} comprises Nb, Ta, or Sb.

16. (Previously Presented) The ceramic material of claim 11, wherein the additional component comprises $Pb(M^{III}_{2/3}M^{VI}_{1/3})O_3$, where M^{III} comprises Fe, Mn, Cr, or Ga, and where M^{VI} comprises W.

17. (Previously Presented) The ceramic material of claim 11, wherein the additional component comprises $Pb(Li^{I}_{1/4}M^{V}_{3/4})O_3$, where M^{V} comprises Nb, Ta, or Sb.

18. (Currently Amended) A ceramic comprising the ceramic material of claim 1, the ceramic ~~comprising:~~

~~a material~~ having a formula $A_{1-b-c}B_bC_c$, where $0 \leq b \leq 0.5$ and $0 < c \leq 0.01$;

wherein:

A comprises $Pb(Zr_aTi_{1-a})O_3$, where $0.5 \leq a \leq 0.6$;

B comprises an additional component having a perovskite lattice-type structure; and

C comprises a ceramic material having a cryolite lattice-type structure.

19. (Previously Presented) The ceramic of claim 18, further comprising up to 3 mol.% of PbO.

20. (Previously Presented) The ceramic of claim 18 which is substantially free of $KNbO_3$.

21. (Withdrawn) A piezo-actuator comprising:

a stack comprised of piezoelectric ceramic layers and electrode layers interspersed among the piezoelectric ceramic layers;

wherein at least one of the piezoelectric ceramic layers comprises a ceramic material according to claim 1.

22. (Withdrawn) A method of producing a ceramic material, the ceramic material comprising (i) a first ceramic material having a perovskite structure and comprising a host lattice, the first ceramic material comprising lead, zirconium and titanium, and (ii) a second ceramic material having a cryolite structure, wherein the method comprises:

mixing a precursor material of ~~a~~ the second ceramic material with a precursor material of the first ceramic material.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the precursor material of the second ceramic material comprises a previously-prepared cryolite phase.

24. (Previously Presented) The ceramic material of claim 1 which is substantially free of $KNbO_3$.

25. (Withdrawn) A piezo-actuator comprising:

a stack comprised of piezoelectric ceramic layers and electrode layers interspersed among the piezoelectric ceramic layers;

wherein at least one of the piezoelectric ceramic layers comprises a ceramic according to claim 18.